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Un-gyo Jung

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EXAMINER

LOVEL, KIMBERLY M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2167

DATE MAILED: 10/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/621,446

Applicant(s)

JUNG, UN-GYO

Examiner

Kimberly Lovel

Art Unit

2167

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 July 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is responsive to the Amendment filed 21 July 2006.
2. Claims 1-17 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 4, 10 and 12 are independent. In the Amendment filed 21 July 2006, claims 3, 4, 7, 10 and 12 have been amended and claims 14-17 have been added. This action is made Non-Final.
3. The rejections of claims 1-13 as being anticipated by US Patent No 6,289,506 to Kwong et al have been withdrawn as necessitated by applicant's arguments.

Claim Objections

4. The objections to **claims 4 and 10** are withdrawn as necessitated by the applicant's amendment.
5. **Claims 5, 6, 9 and 10** are objected to because of the following informalities:
Claims 5 and 6 each recite the limitation "the configuration of the Java class file" in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
Claim 9 recites the limitation "the symbolic reference" in lines 2-3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
Claim 10 recites the limitation " the Java application " in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

6. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Art Unit: 2167

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

MPEP 2106 IV.B.2.(b)

A claim that requires one or more acts to be performed defines a process. However, not all processes are statutory under 35 U.S.C. 101. *Schrader*, 22 F.3d at 296, 30 USPQ2d at 1460. To be statutory, a claimed computer-related process must either: (A) result in a physical transformation outside the computer for which a practical application is either disclosed in the specification or would have been known to a skilled artisan, or (B) be limited to a practical application.

Claim 1 recites a Java execution device comprising: an extended class library which includes a class file of a machine code obtained by precompiling a class file included in a standard class library; and a Java Virtual Machine (JVM), which executes the class file of the machine code class file or an application file included in the extended class library.

Even though claim 1 recites a device, the device comprises entirely of software. According to MPEP 2106:

The claims lack the necessary physical articles or objects to constitute a machine or a manufacture within the meaning of 35 USC 101. They are clearly not a series of steps or acts to be a process nor are they a combination of chemical compounds to be a composition of matter. As such, they fail to fall within a statutory category. They are, at best, functional descriptive material *per se*.

Descriptive material can be characterized as either "functional descriptive material" or "nonfunctional descriptive material." Both types of "descriptive material" are nonstatutory when claimed as descriptive material *per se*, 33 F.3d at 1360, 31 USPQ2d at 1759.

Art Unit: 2167

When functional descriptive material is recorded on some computer-readable medium, it becomes structurally and functionally interrelated to the medium and will be statutory in most cases since use of technology permits the function of the descriptive material to be realized. Compare *In re Lowry*, 32 F.3d 1579, 1583-84, 32 USPQ2d 1031, 1035 (Fed. Cir. 1994)

Merely claiming nonfunctional descriptive material, i.e., abstract ideas, stored on a computer-readable medium, in a computer, or on an electromagnetic carrier signal, does not make it statutory. See *Diehr*, 450 U.S. at 185-86, 209 USPQ at 8 (noting that the claims for an algorithm in *Benson* were unpatentable as abstract ideas because "[t]he sole practical application of the algorithm was in connection with the programming of a general purpose computer.").

Claims 2, 3, 14, 15 and 17 are dependent on the system of claim 1, and therefore are rejected on the same grounds as claim 1.

To allow for compact prosecution, the examiner will apply prior art to these claims as best understood, with the assumption that applicant will amend to overcome the stated 101 rejections.

Claim 4 recites a Java class file, for using with a Java Virtual Machine (JVM) in which a Java application is executed on a Java platform in a device, comprising: a constant, a field, and a method, wherein a symbolic reference information indicates a specific class, field or method of an object, and method information of the method comprises an attribute of a code formed of the machine instruction having an operand in which the symbolic reference information is inserted in place of an address.

A Java class file is considered to represent software *per se*.

According to MPEP 2106:

The claims lack the necessary physical articles or objects to constitute a machine or a manufacture within the meaning of 35 USC 101. They are clearly not a series of steps or acts to be a process nor are they a combination of chemical compounds to be a composition of matter. As such, they fail to fall within a statutory category. They are, at best, functional descriptive material *per se*.

Descriptive material can be characterized as either "functional descriptive material" or "nonfunctional descriptive material." Both types of "descriptive material" are nonstatutory when claimed as descriptive material *per se*, 33 F.3d at 1360, 31 USPQ2d at 1759. When functional descriptive material is recorded on some computer-readable medium, it becomes structurally and functionally interrelated to the medium and will be statutory in most cases since use of technology permits the function of the descriptive material to be realized. Compare *In re Lowry*, 32 F.3d 1579, 1583-84, 32 USPQ2d 1031, 1035 (Fed. Cir. 1994)

Merely claiming nonfunctional descriptive material, i.e., abstract ideas, stored on a computer-readable medium, in a computer, or on an electromagnetic carrier signal, does not make it statutory. See *Diehr*, 450 U.S. at 185-86, 209 USPQ at 8 (noting that the claims for an algorithm in *Benson* were unpatentable as abstract ideas because "[t]he sole practical application of the algorithm was in connection with the programming of a general purpose computer.").

Claims 5-6 are dependent on the system of claim 1, and therefore are rejected on the same grounds as claim 4.

Claim 7 recites a method of executing a Java application on a Java platform in a device, the Java application causing the device to perform a desired function, the method comprises: (a) precompiling a class file included in a standard class library into an extended class library file including a machine instruction; (b) the extended class library file executing the machine instruction; and (c) executing a Java application file by using at least one of a Just-In-Time (JIT) compiling method and an interpreting method.

In the above limitation, there is no physical transformation being claimed, a practical application would be established by a useful, concrete and tangible result.

For it to be a tangible result, it must be more than a thought or a computation and must have a real world value rather than being an abstract idea. The invention as recited in the claim pre-compiles a class file and executes an application file. It is unclear as to what kind of tangible output is obtained by these limitations. Since **claims**

8-9 and 17 are dependent on the method of claim 7, they are rejected on the same grounds as claim 7.

Claim 10 recites a method of precompiling a Java file which is executed on a Java platform in a device, the Java application causing the device to perform a desired function, the method comprising converting a Java class file or a Java source file into a machine instruction including an operand in which symbolic reference information is inserted in place of an address.

In the above limitation, there is no physical transformation being claimed, a practical application would be established by a useful, concrete and tangible result.

For it to be a tangible result, it must be more than a thought or a computation and must have a real world value rather than being an abstract idea. The invention as recited in the claim converts a class file into a source file. It is unclear as to what kind of tangible output is obtained by these limitations. An example of a tangible result is storing or displaying the converted file. Since **claim 11** is dependent on the method of claim 10, it is rejected on the same grounds as claim 10.

Claim 12 recites an execution method in a Java Virtual Machine (JVM) in which a Java application is executed on a Java platform in a device, the Java application causing the device to perform a desired function, the method comprising: determining whether method information of a method to be executed includes an attribute of a code formed of a machine instruction having a operand in which symbolic reference information is inserted; and if the method information of the method to be executed

includes the attribute of the code formed of the machine instruction, linking the symbolic reference information with an address and executing the machine instruction.

In the above limitation, there is no physical transformation being claimed, a practical application would be established by a useful, concrete and tangible result. For it to be a tangible result, it must be more than a thought or a computation and must have a real world value rather than being an abstract idea. The invention as recited in the claim links information and executes machine code. It is unclear as to what kind of tangible output is obtained by these limitations. Since **claim 13** is dependent on the method of claim 12, it is rejected on the same grounds as claim 12.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

8. **Claims 4, 6, 10, 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US PGPub 2002/0059475 to Baentsch et al (hereafter Baentsch et al).**

Referring to claim 4, Baentsch et al disclose a Java class file, for using with a Java Virtual Machine (JVM) in which a Java application is executed on a Java platform in a device (see [0005]), comprising:

- a constant [constant pools] (see [0008], lines 7-11),
- a field [references] (see [0008], lines 6-7), and
- a method (see [0008]-[0009]),

wherein a symbolic reference information indicates a specific class, field or method of an object, and method information of the method comprises an attribute of a code formed of the machine instruction having an operand in which the symbolic reference information [symbolic linking information] is inserted in place of an address (see [0008]-[0009]).

Referring to claim 6, Baentsch et al disclose the configuration of the Java class file of claim 4, wherein the symbolic reference information comprises at least one of information on a constant pool symbol [see [0008], lines 7-11], information on a Java Virtual Machine (JVM)-internal symbol and information on a location of a data block.

Referring to claim 10, Baentsch et al disclose a method of precompiling a Java file which is executed on a Java platform in a device, the Java application causing the device to perform a desired function (see [0005]), the method comprising:

- converting a Java class file or a Java source file into a machine instruction (see [0007]) including an operand in which symbolic reference information [linking information] is inserted (see [0008]).

Referring to claim 11, Baentsch et al disclose the method of claim 10, wherein the Java class file comprises a standard class file [Java standard class files] included in a standard Java class library (see [0007], lines 6-10).

Referring to claim 12, Baentsch et al disclose an execution method in a Java Virtual Machine (JVM) (see abstract) in which a Java application is executed on a Java platform in a device, the Java application causing the device to perform a desired function, the execution method comprising:

determining whether method information of a method to be executed includes an attribute of a code formed of a machine instruction having a operand in which symbolic reference information [linking information] is inserted in place of an address (see [0008]-[0009]); and

if the method information of the method to be executed includes the attribute of the code formed of the machine instruction, linking the symbolic reference information with an address and executing the machine instruction (see [0008]-[0009]).

9. Claims 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No 6,289,506 to Kwong et al (hereafter Kwong et al).

Referring to claim 7, Kwong et al disclose a method of executing a Java application on a Java platform in a device, the Java application causing the device to perform a desired function, (see abstract), the method comprises:

(a) precompiling a class file included in a standard class library into an extended class library file including a machine instruction (see column 5, lines 8-67);

(b) the extended class library file executing the machine instruction (see column 5, lines 38-67 and column 3, lines 44-47); and

(c) executing a Java application file by using at least one of a Just-In-Time (JIT) compiling method and an interpreting method (see column 3, lines 37-64).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

10. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

11. **Claims 1-3, 14, 15 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US PGPub 2003/0005425 to Zee (hereafter Zee) in view of US PGPub 2002/0059475 to Baentsch et al.**

Referring to claim 1, Zee discloses a Java execution device (see abstract) comprising:

an extended class library which includes a class file of a machine code obtained by precompiling a class file [Java class file] included in a standard class library (see [0060], line 6 – [0064] – an AOT compiler is utilized to compile the Java class file, which is then stored in a database until the compiled file is requested by processing system 30 or 32); and

a Java Virtual Machine (JVM) [data processing systems 30 and 32] which executes the class file of the machine code class file or an application file included in the extended class library (see [0037] and [0041]).

However, Zee fails to explicitly disclose wherein data processing systems 30 and 32 contain a Java Virtual Machine. Baentsch et al disclose a Java run-time system with modified linking identifiers (see abstract), including the use of a Java Virtual Machine for executing class files (see [0005]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the Java Virtual Machine disclosed by Baentsch et al as a software-only platform running on top of the hardware-based platform of processing systems 30 and 32 disclosed by Zee. One would have been motivated to do so since the processing systems of Zee have the ability to execute a Java class file made of a Java virtual machine language of bytecodes that has been compiled (Zee: see [0037]).

Referring to claim 2, the combination of Zee and Baentsch et al (hereafter Zee/Baentsch) discloses the Java execution device of claim 1, wherein a machine instruction of the machine code includes an operand in which symbolic reference information [references which name target items to which they refer] is inserted (Baentsch et al: see [0008]-[0009]).

Referring to claim 3, Zee/Baentsch discloses the Java execution device of claim 2, wherein the Java Virtual Machine (JVM) includes a class linker which converts the symbolic reference information inserted in the operand of the machine instruction into an address (Baentsch et al: see [0008], lines 11-15).

Referring to claim 14, Zee/Baentsch discloses the Java execution device of claim 1, wherein an Ahead-of-Time (AOT) compilation is performed [performed by AOT compiler] on the class file prior to execution of the class file by the Java Virtual Machine (JVM) [processing systems 30 and 32] (Zee: see [0062]-[0064] – the AOT compiler compiles the Java class file and stores the file in the database until the file is requested by processing systems 30 and 32).

Referring to claim 15, Zee/Baentsch discloses the Java execution device of claim 1, wherein a machine instruction of the machine code includes an operand in which symbolic reference information [linking information] is inserted in place of an address (Baentsch et al: see [0008], lines 1-15).

Referring to claim 17, Zee/Baentsch discloses the Java execution device of claim 14, wherein the symbolic reference information is inserted during performance of the Ahead-of-Time (AOT) compilation (Baentsch et al: see [0008]-[0009]).

12. Claims 5 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US PGPub 2002/0059475 to Baentsch et al as applied to claim 4 above, and further in view of US Patent No 6,289,506 to Kwong et al.

Referring to claim 5, Baentsch et al disclose the Java class file, however, Baentsch et al fail to explicitly disclose the further limitation wherein the method information further comprises at least one of exception handling information and information used for garbage collection. Kwong et al disclose a method for optimizing Java performance using precompiled code (see abstract), including the further limitation

wherein the method information further comprises at least one of exception handling information [catch and throw exceptions] and information used for garbage collection (see column 5, line 34 – column 5, line 6) in order to increase the efficiency of execution.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to utilize exception handling information of Kwong et al with the Java class file of Baentsch et al. One would have been motivated to do so in order to increase the efficiency of execution by quickly handling exceptions.

Referring to claim 13, Baentsch et al disclose an execution method in a JVM, however, Baentsch et al fail to explicitly disclose the further limitation wherein, if the method information of the method to be executed does not include the attribute of the code formed of the machine instruction, the execution method further comprises one of Just-In-Time (JIT) compiling and interpreting the method. Kwong et al disclose a method for optimizing Java performance using precompiled code (see abstract), including the further limitation wherein, if the method information of the method to be executed does not include the attribute of the code formed of the machine instruction, the execution method further comprises one of Just-In-Time (JIT) compiling and interpreting the method (see column 6, lines 47-58) in order to increase the efficiency of execution.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to utilize exception handling information of Kwong et al with the Java class file

of Baentsch et al. One would have been motivated to do so in order to increase the efficiency of execution by quickly handling exceptions.

13. Claims 8, 9 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No 6,289,506 to Kwong et al as applied to claim 7 above, and further in view of US PGPub 2002/0059475 to Baentsch et al.

Referring to claim 8, Kwong et al disclose pre-compiling a class file, however, Kwong et al fail to explicitly disclose the further limitation wherein step (a) further comprises inserting symbolic reference information. Baentsch et al disclose a java run-time system with modified linking identifiers, including the further limitation of inserting symbolic reference information [references which name target items to which they refer] into an operand of the machine instruction (see [0008], lines 11-15) in order to increase the efficiency of executing the machine code.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use reference linking information disclosed by Baentsch et al as a added feature to the pre-compiling step disclosed by Kwong et al. One would have been motivated to do so in order to increase the efficiency of executing the machine code.

Referring to claim 9, the combination of Kwong et al and Baentsch et al (hereafter Kwong/Baentsch) discloses the method of claim 8, wherein step (b) further comprises converting the symbolic reference information inserted in the operand of the machine instruction into an address (Baentsch et al: see [0008], lines 11-15).

Referring to claim 16, Kwong et al disclose pre-compiling a class file, however, Kwong et al fail to explicitly disclose the further limitation wherein precompiling the class file comprises inserting symbolic reference information in place of an address into an operand of the machine instruction. Baentsch et al disclose a java run-time system with modified linking identifiers, including the further limitation wherein precompiling the class file comprises inserting symbolic reference information in place of an address into an operand of the machine instruction (see [0008]-[0009]) in order to increase the efficiency of executing the machine code.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use reference linking information disclosed by Baentsch et al as a added feature to the pre-compiling step disclosed by Kwong et al. One would have been motivated to do so in order to increase the efficiency of executing the machine code.

Response to Arguments

14. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-13 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kimberly Lovel whose telephone number is (571) 272-2750. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 - 4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cottingham can be reached on (571) 272-7079. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Kimberly Lovel
Examiner
Art Unit 2167

15 October 2006
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15 October 2006


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